DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Simplified Practice

Washington

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN August 15, 1925. No. 5.

ENLISTING THE ASSOCIATION'S FULL AID

While scores of trade associations have set into motion Simplified Practice programmes, there is still need for more to join the ranks if the war on waste is to be successful. As has been said before, simplifications and standardizations cannot "sell" themselves. The full measure of benefits can come only through wholehearted teamwork.

There is a very definite job for each trade association in Simplified Practice, whether of manufacturers, distributors, or consumers. And it is only to the extent that they cooperate that they will benefit.

The manufacturing association can not only contribute to the success of a movement in its preliminary stages; but it can broadcast the results in and outside of its membership in a way that will emphasize its own value to the industry. The distributing organization has an excellent opportunity to render a service to its members by inducing them to point out to their customers wherein it is to their advantage to purchase the simplified lines. The consuming organization, where such exists, has a pecular right to point out to its members that the action taken in any Simplified Practice General Conference was so developed as to protect the consumers' interests; and that hence any attempt to ignore the items included in Simplified Practice Recommendations only delays the benefits which all might gain by adherence to the program.

Any of these associations can perform a service for the success of the movement by advising the Division of manufacturers who, having formally accepted the simplified lines, are not keeping their pledge. The fact that it is Division procedure to name a standing committee representative of all affected groups, supplies at once an organization to take up with the recalcitrant ones the subject of adherence (for the Division has no police powers and wants none).

And as more associations realize that Simplified Practice permits concentration on live lines, and results in mass production and its accompanying economies, few will feel that they can afford to stay out.

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The college of Commerce and Finance of Drake University, in Iowa, has joined three-score colleges and universities which have declared their intention to study Simplification and to cooperate in making Simplified Practice Recommendations effective.

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Estimates made by various groups in the plow bolt and nut industry place the annual savings to that industry through Simplified Practice at $600,000. This reduction from 1500 to 840 items also means added savings of time and convenience for the farmer, as well as to manufacturers and distributors.

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The insecticide and fungicide industry is turning its attention to the simplification of package sizes. A committee on simplification of packages is now making rapid progress in surveys and analyses. Such a program, it is declared, would help solve the problems of dealers.

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Manufacturers of trunks and bags have become interested in possible benefits from simplification, and have asked the Division to outline its methods and procedure. The Division has asked the manufacturers to secure the facts as to existing variety and demand, as a basis for a simplification program.

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The National Association of Purchasing Agents, which was responsible for the simplification early this year of invoice, purchase order and inquiry forms, has prepared rubber stamps specifying use of the standard invoice forms. These are available to business houses at cost, the Division ha s been informed.

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To make their cooperation in Simplified Practice programs more effective, the Western Society of Engineers, with headquarters in Chicago, is creating a special technical committee to have more direct contact with the Division. This committee will be headed by William A. Durgin of the Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago, who was "borrowed" from that company by Secretary Hoover to become the first chief of the Division of Simplified Practice. The Committee will give assistance to the Division's work by broadcasting among the members of the society the recommendations adopted by various groups, and will help to keep Simplified Practice "sold".

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At a recent meeting in Atlantic City, cold storage warehousemen took steps for the development of a set of standard warehouse forms which would be specifically applicable to the cold storage warehousing industry. A committee is being formed to survey the existing conditions.

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Reduction of styles and sizes of tacks to the extent of 54% and of packing weights 62% is called for in the tentative program drawn up by a Simplification Committee of the tack industry. This program will be referred to a general conference of producers, distributors and users which is to be held early in October.

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The canning industry, as represented at a preliminary conference of can manufacturers, canners, distributors and others held on July 15th, has decided in favor of eliminating the many variations within each nominal size. To this end the Division has been asked to make further surveys as to Production.

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The Electrical Manufacturers Council, through its Carbon Section, is taking up with the Division a proposal that sizes of carbon brushes for motors be simplified. The proposal is meeting with the approval of representative users.

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The Federal Government is not to be outdone by industry in the application of Simplified Practice. The Navy representatives in the office of the Chief Coordinator, Bureau of the Budget, have recently placed in the hands of all supply officials in the Navy Department copies of Simplified Practice Recommendations adopted to date. The same information is being incorporated in an index and catalog of Federal stores, as well as in the revision of the Navy Catalog.

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The Division, on September 1, will send out invitations to a general conference of manufacturers, distributors and users of grinding wheels, which is to be held September 23. The tentative simplification program will call for the elimination of some 450,000 styles, sizes and shapes of grinding wheels now carried in stock. The preliminary work of the simplification committee has involved studies covering several months. Informal notice of the impending conference brought out the comment from the Naval Supply Depot, Brooklyn, that the proposed simplification "would be of marked advantage to the Navy".

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Adoption by a general conference, under the auspices of the Division, of manufacturers, distributors, and shipper organizations, of a Simplified Practice program reducing the variations in thicknesses of box board, is declared by many of the shipper organizations and manufacturers to be a long step forward. It is estimated that fully five million dollars will be saved annually to the industry. The Simplified Practice Recommendations were the subject of resolutions adopted by the 16th annual convention of the Flavoring Extract Manufacturers' Association pledging full cooperation to the movement.

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Manufacturers of bolts, nuts and rivets, through a simplification committee, are making rapid progress in the developing of a program which would reduce the variety of containers for their products.

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Letters have been received by the Division pointing out possibilities of simplification in a number of commodities, including commercial baskets and fruit and vegetable containers, automobile poppet valves and a number of other fields. This is only a reminder that Simplified Practice programs can be started at the instance of any group, whether organized consumer, distributor or producer, and that the Division's publications are available on request.

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The Associated Knit Underwear Company of America and the Southern Yarn Spinners Association have undertaken to determine what yarn sizes might be eliminated through a simplification program.

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SUPPLEMENT TO MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN NO. 5

Books, etc., dealing with Simplification, Standardization and Waste Elimination.

1. "Waste in Industry" - The report of the Hoover Committee
   Published by McGraw-Hill Book Co., 370 - 7th Ave., New York City.

2. "Management's Hand Book" - Section 17, pages 987-1034 deals with Simplification and standardization
   Published by Ronald Press Co., 20 Vesey St., New York City.

3. "Trade Associations - Their Economic Significance and Legal Status."
   Chapter XII deals with "Standardization of Products."
   Published by National Industrial Conference Board, Inc.,
   247 Park Ave., New York City.

4. "Integration of Industrial Operations" - Census Monograph No. III,
   Chapter IV deals with economics, etc. of large scale production.
   Obtainable from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Price $1.00

5. "Economics of Overhead Costs" - by J. Maurice Clark
   Treats of simplification and standardization and specialization, mass-production, etc. and their effects on overhead costs.
   Published by University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.

6. "Millions from Waste" - by Frederick A. Talbot
   Deals with waste-elimination efforts, utilization of by-products, reclamation, salvage, conservation, etc.
   Published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

7. "The Regularization of Employment" - by H. Feldman
   Chapter VI deals with "Diversifying the Output"
   Published by Harper and Bros., 49 E. 33rd St., New York City.

8. "Taking the Guess Work out of Business" - by William R. Bassett
   Chapter III deals with "The High Cost of Variety"
   Published by B. C. Forbes Publishing Co., 120 Fifth Ave., New York City.